

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ASIA PACIFIC WATER FORUM 7<sup>th</sup> GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING ON 2 JULY 10, SINGAPORE

### Summary

- The meeting, held at the Singapore PUB WaterHub, provided an opportunity for APWF members to report to the Governing Council (GC) on the progress they have made regarding the APWF's concrete initiatives.
- The APWF Governing Council announced that Thailand has been selected as the host country for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Asia-Pacific Water Summit and the APWF members supported the decision.

### Key points of the 7th Governing Council Meeting of the APWF

#### Agenda Item 1: Chairmanship of the Meeting

- The 7<sup>th</sup> Governing Council meeting was chaired by the APWF GC Chair, Prof Tommy Koh. APWF GC Vice-Chairs, Mdm Erna Witoelar and Mr Ravi Narayanan were both in attendance.

#### Agenda Item 2: Adoption of the Agenda

- The Chair thanked the Secretariat and PUB for hosting the 7<sup>th</sup> GC meeting and welcomed members and first-time participants to the meeting. The agenda was adopted without amendment.

#### Agenda Item 3: Current status of the host country selection for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Asia-Pacific Water Summit (2<sup>nd</sup> APWS)

- Mr Narayanan reported on the process of the host country selection and announced that the 2<sup>nd</sup> APWS would be hosted by Thailand around January 2012.
- The Chair also shared that the UNESCAP Executive Secretary, Dr Noeleen Heyzer has expressed the UNESCAP's full support for the event.

#### Agenda Item 4: Report from Vice-Chair of the APWF Governing Council

- Mdm Witoelar reported on the first meeting of the Advisory Panel on the OIC's (the Organization of the Islamic Conference) Water Vision which was held in May 2010. At the meeting, the advisory panel of experts discussed the question - what institutional structure they would need to develop in order to move into the regional development issues and to initiate concrete actions on water and sanitation. The panel showed interest in APWF's activities under the Key Result Areas (KRAs) and knowledge hubs. Mdm Witoelar suggested that APWF members look into the possibility of collaborating with the OIC members and their water-related institutions in the Middle East and Asia on future activities.

**Agenda Item 5: Annual Progress and update of concrete initiatives, including previous events.**

(a) Asian Water Development Outlook (AWDO): ADB

- i. ADB reported that the AWDO 2010 has been prepared by the team comprising ADB, APWF members and 10 partner organizations. The process has been co-chaired by Mr Narayanan and Mr Lincklaen Arriens. ADB has also held meetings with the regional representatives from the Global Water Partnership to critically review the messages, results and recommendations of the report to ensure relevancy to the five sub-regions in the Asia-Pacific. Contributors to the main chapters of the report on governance included scientists, social scientists and diplomats.
- ii. ADB stated that AWDO 2010 would show how water security can be measured through five key dimensions (household, productive economies, vibrant and livable cities, healthy rivers and resilient communities) as well as by using indicators and indexes. AWDO 2010 would also recommend how water governance and water security could be improved by ministers of finance and planning. Each of five key dimensions is led by a different institution, as follows:
  - o Household water security was conducted by a regional team led by UNESCAP including WHO and UNICEF,
  - o Productive economies by EMU and FAO,
  - o Vibrant and livable cities by PUB,
  - o Healthy rivers by IWC and
  - o Resilient communities by ICHARM and ICIMOD.

The launch of the AWDO2010 is being planned for the later part of this year.

- iii. With regard to the question as to how ADB taps into and build on the vast knowledge database from the other initiatives led by other institutions such as UNESCO's Water Assessment Program, ADB responded that the AWDO team and the institutions leading the key dimensions have leveraged on the existing knowledge and database as well as the latest material and thinking from the global scene to develop the AWDO 2010. With its focus on finance and planning, measurement and governance improvement, the AWDO 2010 will complement the reports done by other institutions and will serve as a good reference for discussion. UNESCAP, which is in charge of the household section of the AWDO2010, reported that their work on the household section is almost complete and suggested that ADB considers releasing some of the data findings which closely relates to the MDGs in time for the MDGs Summit in September 2010.
- iv. Mdm Witoelar pointed out that since water and sanitation issues have not been included in the agenda of the MDG Summit at this moment, the APWF members should make efforts to include these issues in the MDG summit agenda.

(b) "Ministers for Water Security" Initiative: UNESCAP, ADB, NARBO & JWF

- i. The Secretariat commented on the roadmap of the ministerial dialogue which first took place at the 5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum in Istanbul in 2009. The third dialogue took place at the Asia-Pacific Water Ministers' Forum held during SIWW 2010. The fourth and fifth dialogues are expected to be held during the

Stockholm World Water Week (SWWW) in September 2010 and at the 8<sup>th</sup> Ministers' Forum on Infrastructure Development in October 2010, respectively.

- ii. UNESCAP reported that, at its regional meeting held in Bangkok in November 2009, some countries requested for a clear definition of water security in order to move forward this initiative. UNESCAP also informed that, at the request of UN-Water, ESCAP and several UN agencies, are working on a background paper on the definition of the term "Water Security" which will be tabled at the regular meeting of UN-Water to be held during the SWWW.
- iii. Mdm Witoelar emphasized the importance of linking water security to that of food and energy because they are essential to each other.
- iv. The Chair added that there is political sensitivity pertaining to water security because it could affect relations between States. The Chair also noted that the term "Water Security" was adopted by APWF as a short expression from the vision of achieving a sustainable use and protection of water systems for humans and the environment. WHO commented that water security should be distinguished from food and energy securities because water does not have any substitute, unlike energy and food.
- v. PUB thanked the APWF Governing Council, lead organizations and members for their cooperation and participation in the Asia-Pacific Water Ministers' Forum (APWMF) during SIWW 2010. PUB announced that the summary document of the discussion of the APWMF would be issued at APWF-related events in the future.
- vi. ADB reported that the statements on the climate change were delivered by Prof Koike, who is the Chair of the Steering Group on Water and Climate Change of the APWF, at the Asia-Pacific Water Ministers' Forum. The Steering Group will be producing a framework document based on these statements which would be ready for endorsement by the next APWF GC meeting.
- vii. Mdm Witoelar commented that APWF would likely gain both financial and human resources support by linking its efforts in promoting water and sanitation issues with climate change.
- viii. PUB announced that the SIWW 2011 would be held from 4 to 8 July 2011 with the theme "Sustainable Water Solutions for a changing Urban Environment."

(c) Implementation of the International Year of Sanitation- 2008 and follow-up: UNESCAP, JICA, WHO, UNICEF & ADB

- i. UNESCAP reported that several meetings were held on the theme "Waste-water Revolution" including the regional dialogue organized in cooperation with UNSGAB, ADB, JSC and other APWF members in Kuala Lumpur in Jun 2010. The main findings and recommendations from the meetings were that sanitation must go beyond toilets and that effective sanitation and waste-water management could lead to a rapid economic growth.
- ii. JWF reported on the Follow-up Conference on the International Year of Sanitation which was held in Tokyo in January 2010 and introduced the Chair's Summary which declared the creation of "International Half Decade for Sustainable Sanitation - The 5 Year Drive to 2015".

- iii. Mr Narayanan noted that the conference was important not only in linking the issue to the MDGs but also in maintaining the sense of balance by serving as a platform for the civil society.
- iv. Mdm Witoelar commented that we should go beyond toilets and wastewater and see them as interdependent. It would also be important to include the poor people in sanitation planning so that they would want to use and take care of the facilities once they are constructed.
- v. The Chair called for a change in the mindset of the ruling elite on issues of toilet and sanitation. UN agencies and ADB are encouraged to give their support by appealing to the world leaders that giving the poor basic sanitation is no less important than giving them water, food and shelter.
- vi. Mr Narayanan expressed that our outrage would be the moral force driving the sanitation issues forward.
- vii. UN-HABITAT emphasized on the importance of having a decentralized wastewater treatment system close to the community. Evidences show that 67% of the waste generated in most human settlements does not reach the centralized waste-water treatment plant to be treated.

(d) Developing Knowledge and Lessons: Establishment of Network of Knowledge Hubs: PUB & UNESCO

- i. ADB reported that the 1<sup>st</sup> Knowledge Hubs (KHs) Learning Week and the 1<sup>st</sup> Steering Committee (SC) Meeting were successfully completed. Some of the weaknesses of the KHs identified included lack of sustainable source of funding. In addition, ADB updated that no institutions has come forward to work on four new areas (i.e. Water Supply for Rural Areas and Small Towns, Water and Energy, Watershed Management, Coastal Zone Management).
- ii. Mr Sokolov who chaired the SC meeting of the KHs emphasized the importance of the KHs to become part of an actual project or program sponsored by donors in order to demonstrate its educational and capacity building functions and to attract more sponsors.
- iii. The Chair requested the APWF Secretariat and ADB to consider how the KHs can make better presentations to potential donors and partners.
- iv. Japan Sanitation Consortium (JSC) reported on the summary of the Sanitation Knowledge Hub Seminar which was held during the SIWW 2010 and chaired by Mr Narayanan.
- v. Mdm Witoelar suggested that before establishing hubs for water and energy, the water resource management hubs could look into taking up these themes because more donors are becoming interested in micro-hydro to which conservation of water resource and the integrated water management is essential. In addition, Mdm Witoelar suggested that the KHs collect information on community-level sanitation and biogas system.

(e) Water Financing and Capacity Development: ADB & JICA

- i. ADB reported that the water financing program was on track to meet its financial target of exceeding 10 billion dollars on new approvals with its partners. Some 157 million people were expected to benefit from the program's investments since the start of the program in 2006.
  - ii. ADB shared its concern that although the Water Financing Partnership Facility has received generous support from European countries and Australia in the early years, the world financial crisis has caused a significant reduction in their grant contributions to the Facility. These grant funds would be necessary for piloting and demonstrating innovations, which Governments are asking for before they actually commit and invest their own resources from their government budgets. Therefore, it is suggested that the APWF members work together to articulate the need for grant financing and ask not only for ADB but also for the other partners to keep financing water and sanitation related innovations and demonstrations.
  - iii. ADB reported that the collaboration between the K-Water, one of the knowledge hubs, and the Indonesian government has grown into a six-million-dollar agreement to clean up the Citarum River Basin in Indonesia. In addition, four knowledge hubs have visited a project site in India on the request by the Indian government to explore possible collaborations. The meeting noted that these are good examples of the work on the ground by KHs and they should be highlighted to raise awareness.
  - iv. ADB also reported that many countries were interested in the UNESCO's guidelines on the Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) which was announced at the 5th World Water Forum. ADB would use this model in its river basin management related projects. Recently, ADB finalized an agreement with ICUN on the publication of the book on the status on the river water management in Asia.
  - v. JICA reported on its new initiative on climate change adaptation in water related disasters. The JICA's handbook in English will be published by the end of FY2010.
- (f) Re-inventing Irrigation and Agricultural Water Governance in the Asia-Pacific to Meet the Millennium Development Goals: FAO & IWMI
- i. FAO reported on the following projects:
    - o Three-year project to support activities in Mada, Cau, Bang Pakong and Yellow River basins,
    - o Two-year project on capacity building and modernization of irrigation systems in Thailand, Malaysia, China and Vietnam and,
    - o The collaboration project with UNESCO to produce "Agricultural Water Management" volume of the UNESCO/ NARBO IWRM guidelines series.
  - ii. FAO and IWMI have also collaborated on the following initiatives:
    - o Supporting 7 basin centres of excellence in China, Pakistan, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, Australia and India,
    - o Developing and adopting regional guidelines for monitoring investment and results, and
    - o Mobilizing the professional community in the region for analysis, dissemination and promotion of national initiatives.

- iii. FAO stated that the aims of the initiative for the next two years would be on the promotion, overall development, management and steering of the initiative. FAO will also be submitting a detailed development and formulation of the initiative and its components to the donors as needed.
- iv. UNESCO suggested that we should give consideration not only to the quantity of water for producing food but also to the place where food is produced in order to have a better understanding of the virtual water trade. UNESCO noted that problems caused by fertilizers and pesticides getting into water resources have become significant since the Green Revolution and thus the issue of water quality should be examined more thoroughly.
- v. Mr Ti and Mr Narayanan both stressed the importance of looking at the food security issue from the viewpoint of livelihoods. Mr Narayanan commented that increasing tariffs was a blunt instrument and may be counterproductive. Instead, we should look at the type of typologies; for example, what can poor people with less the 2 hectares of land grow and so on. He suggested that FAO carries out forensic analysis to provide data to the World Bank and ADB to help their formulation of policies

(g) Increasing Local Capacities for Bridging the Divides in the Region: UN-HABITAT & STREAMS

- i. UN-HABITAT informed that the donor base for its water and sanitation trust fund now includes other donors in the region such as UAE.
- ii. UN-HABITAT reported on the progress of their capacity development activities at country and regional levels such as the Water for Asian Cities Programme, and Mekong Water and Sanitation Initiative. The technical cooperation activities on capacity building are ongoing in countries such as Pakistan, India, Nepal, and Bangladesh. The initiative is also being developed in the Pacific Islands.
- iii. UNHABITAT, a member of UN-Water, is currently working with UNESCO on the World Water Assessment Program and with regional institutions such as RMIT Melbourne and Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy on the World Water Development Report. There will be a meeting on infrastructure in Incheon, Korea in August 2010, which also serves as a preparatory workshop for the World Cities Water Forum to be held in Songdo, Korea next year.
- iv. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development was held in Indonesia in July 2010. The meeting focused on water and sanitation and the outcome included the establishment of the Secretariat in New Delhi and the sub-regional hub for capacity building in Jakarta.
- v. UN-HABITAT reported that the Incheon City has expressed interest in setting up the water and sanitation hub in Songdo by the end of the year.
- vi. Mdm Witoelar commented that it is important for urban water and sanitation to have appropriate spatial planning, city planning and land consolidation to make space for public sanitation facilities. She suggested UN-HABITAT take this into consideration in its capacity development activities.

(h) Regional water task force to support the strengthening of water resources management with emphasis on monitoring of investment and results in the water sector: UNESCAP

- i. UNESCAP reported that more efforts have been devoted to developing tools for monitoring results as well as the “water insecurity index.” One of the key areas on monitoring results is the identification of “Water Hotspots” where more investment and actions are needed. There are 12 types of water hotspots in the region now. One of the concepts used as indication in identifying hotspots is virtual water. UNESCAP will be releasing its findings in the later part of the year.

(i) Sanimap (Water Web Projects on Google Map/ Earth): JWF & Water Web Alliance

- i. JWF requested the APWF members to contribute to this initiative by accessing and posting sanitation-related projects on the Sanimap.

(j) Central Asian IWRM Resource Center: GWP CACENA, ICWC, ICSD& EC IFAS

- i. GWP CACENA presented the institutional arrangements for the Aral Sea basin, the IWRM progress in the basin and the steps for basin IWRM planning and legislative framework for IWRM. The implementation of IWRM in Fergana Valley was introduced as a case study to show how it contributed to reducing water intakes through past years.
- ii. GWP CACENA also presented its knowledge sharing and networking activities such as development of the internet knowledge database and analytical tools.

(k) SWITCH –in-Asia: UNESCO Jakarta Office

- i. UNESCO announced that the name of the program has been changed from SWITCH-IPA to SWITCH-in-Asia to provide more clarity in terms of its geographical scope. SWITCH-in-Asia aims at designing sustainable concepts to manage water in the cities and demonstrating projects at country level which are implemented based on three components, namely Action Research, Demonstration and Capacity Building/Awareness Raising.
- ii. UNESCO reported that the national projects under the SWITCH-in-Asia regional program are currently being developed for the first time in Indonesia, Cambodia and Vietnam. UNESCO will contribute pre-investment to these projects but stresses that more funding would be needed from donors. It will continue to work on establishing local learning alliance and bring them into regional partnerships.

(l) Sanitation and Water for All: A Global Framework for Action (GF4A): WHO

- i. WHO reported on the launching of first GLAAS (Global Annual Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water) report, which includes data from 27 donors and 42 developing countries. The report makes four specific recommendations concerning sanitation and drinking-water:
  - o Governments (both developing countries and donors) need to give greater political commitment to the water sector;
  - o Resources for the sector should be better focused on meeting the MDG target;

- National and sub-national systems to plan, implement and monitor the delivery of services especially to the currently un-served populations, and
- All stakeholders should work in partnership to support the development and implementation of national plans.

The report highlights that the proportion of aid for basic water and sanitation systems, which is closely linked to the MDGs, has declined from 27% to 16% in the past 5 years (from 2003 to 2008, the latest dates for which OECD figures are available) even though the total aid for water and sanitation has actually increased. The meeting noted that only 42% of aid goes to low income countries.

- ii. WHO also reported on the 1st High Level Meeting of Sanitation and Water for All which was held in Washington DC in April 2010 (jointly hosted by the World Bank and UNICEF and chaired by the Prince of Orange who is Chair of UNSGAB) and participated in by water and finance ministers from 19 countries and donors. A dialogue between ministers of water and finance took place during the meeting with the aim of fostering mutual understanding and enhancing commitment to action to meet the water and sanitation MDG targets. The outcomes include specific country commitments and Water Ministers' call to donors to increase, by 2013, the proportion of their aid for sanitation and drinking-water to low income countries to 50% and the proportion for basic services from 16% to 27%.

(m) Asia-Pacific Water Museum: NSM of Thailand, UNESCO & JWF

- i. UNESCO reported that the National Science Museum of Thailand (NSM) has obtained the budget from the Thai Government to carry out a study on the conceptual design of the Asia-Pacific Water Museum. The duration for this project is 4 years. NSM and UNESCO are planning to organize workshops involving experts in the field of water, culture and museum.

(n) Guidelines for IWRM at the River Basin Level (IRBM): UNESCO

- i. UNESCO reported that the IWRM Guidelines have been published in 4 volumes and that another volume is being prepared with FAO for irrigation related-issues. A Policy Brief on Adaptation to Climate Change is scheduled to be published in 2010, which will be followed by a production of the Guidelines on Adaptation to Climate Change in 2011.
- ii. UNESCO also reported that through NARBO activities, more than 200 sets of the Guidelines were directly utilized for capacity development on the ground.

**Agenda Item 6. APWF future activities to promote concrete initiatives**

(a) Asia day at the Stockholm World Water Week, Stockholm, 5-11 September 2010: ADB & Secretariat

- i. ADB announced that the Eye on Asia at the Stockholm World Water Week 2010 would be held on September 8<sup>th</sup> for the third time. The sessions will focus on water quality in terms of current and emerging solutions to scale up water quality enhancements and improved legal and administrative framework



regulating water quality management in Asia. The book on managing Asia's River Basins will also be launched at the event.

- ii. The 4<sup>th</sup> dialogue for the Ministers for Water Security initiative will also take place as one of the sessions in Eye on Asia which will be titled as "Leader's Dialogue on Water Security in the Asia-Pacific region."

(b) 8th Ministers' Forum on Infrastructure Development, Tokyo, 8-9 October 2010: Japan

- i. The Japanese Government announced that the 8th Minister's Forum on Infrastructure Development would be held on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> October 2010. The tentative theme of the Forum is "Adaptation of infrastructure to increasing water-related risks under the influence of climate change."
- ii. Mdm Witoelar commented that it would be important to ensure continuity between the 4<sup>th</sup> ministerial dialogue in Stockholm and the 5<sup>th</sup> dialogue at the 8<sup>th</sup> Ministers' Forum on Infrastructure Development to secure ministers' commitments on the water security.

(c) ADB and Partners Conference, Manila, 11-15 October 2010: ADB

- i. ADB announced that the ADB and Partners Conference would focus on four key themes: Cities and Water, Water in Food, Clean Water, and Basin Level Management.

**Agenda Item 7. Discussion on Agenda 3. to 6.**

- Notes of discussion are recorded under Agenda Item 3. to 6.

**Agenda Item 8. Other matters**

- Ms Park as the lead coordinator of Asian Parliamentarian process for the 6th World Water Forum announced that the 1st Asian Parliamentarian meeting would be planned on 30th November to 2nd December 2010 in conjunction with the 15th UNSGAB meeting in Seoul.
- The Secretariat announced that the next APWF GC meeting would be held in early December 2010.

**Agenda Item 9. Closing of the session**

- Mdm Witoelar closed the meeting and thanked all participants for their attendance and contributions and PUB Singapore for their generous hospitality.

Recorded by: APWF Secretariat

Approved by: APWF Governing Council